

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying a first graphical image corresponding to a visible user interface for an application program running in a computer system, wherein the first graphical image comprises the a full extent and an external boundary of the visible user interface, comprising:

 defining the first graphical image in a first computer file, wherein the first computer file comprises a plurality of graphical images and wherein a graphical image corresponds to a state of the visible user interface, and the graphical image can be dynamically updated;

 processing a second computer file comprising a plurality of parameters corresponding to the first graphical image, wherein the plurality of parameters define an activation region corresponding to the first graphical image, and wherein the activation region can reside on any portion of the visible user interface; and

 processing the first computer file in accordance with the plurality of parameters to display the first graphical image.

2.(canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 1 wherein the second computer file comprises a location definition and an activation region type for the ~~plurality of~~ activation regions.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the activation region type for ~~at least one of the plurality of~~ activation regions points to a third computer file comprising a plurality of parameters corresponding to a second graphical image, wherein the second graphical image is defined in a fourth computer file.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein the ~~plurality of states of the user interface comprises~~ is a default state[[,]] ~~a selected state, and an activated state.~~

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing of the first computer file further comprises:

defining a polygon corresponding to an external boundary of the first graphical image, wherein the polygon comprises a non-rectangular irregular shape;

storing information regarding the polygon in the computer system; and

partitioning the first graphical image into transparent and visible color regions using the information regarding the polygon.

8. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to operate as follows:

defining a first graphical image in a first computer file, the first graphical image corresponding to a visible user interface for an application program running on the computer, wherein the first graphical image comprises the a full extent and an external boundary of the visible user interface;

processing a second computer file comprising a plurality of parameters corresponding to the first graphical image; and

processing the first computer file in accordance with the plurality of parameters to display the first graphical image.

9.(original) A computer system comprising a client computer and a server computer wherein the client computer and server computer are each operable to execute the method of claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A computer system, having a memory, for displaying a graphical image corresponding to a visible user interface for an application program, wherein the graphical image comprises the a full extent and an external boundary of the visible user interface, comprising:

a first computer file stored in the memory defining the graphical image;

and a second computer file stored in the memory defining a plurality of parameters for processing the first computer file to display the graphical image.

11. (original) The computer system of claim 10 further comprising a graphics engine computer program running in the computer system and operable to read the second computer file for processing the first computer file.

12. (currently amended) A computer system for executing a process for an application program having a user interface, wherein [[:]] the process manages a plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs[[:]] , and wherein each of the plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs corresponds to a window that forms at least a portion of the user interface define substantially the entire user interface for the application program.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method comprising developing for a third party an application program for executing a process on a computer system , wherein [[:]] the process manages a plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs[[:]] , and wherein each of the plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs

~~corresponds to a window that forms at least a portion of the user interface~~ define substantially the entire user interface for the application program.

15. (original) A computer system for executing a process for an application program for processing a configuration file that points to a corresponding graphics file for displaying a window in a user interface for the application program wherein:

the graphics file comprises a plurality of images each corresponding to a different state of the user interface; and

the plurality of images defines substantially all visible portions of the window.

16. (original) The computer system of claim 15 wherein at least one of the group consisting of the graphics file and the configuration file is dynamically updated by a server computer coupled to the computer system.

17. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the first graphical image comprises a button, an electronic mail window, a URL window, a browser window, and an advertisement window.

18. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer system comprises a rules engine, wherein the rules engine evaluates a truth or

a falsity of a rule and initiates an action in response to the truth or falsity.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the action in response to the truth or falsity comprises a change in the first graphical image, wherein the change is visible to a user.

20. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein a first rule calls a second rule and wherein the first rule and the second rule are chained.

21. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein a rule may initiate a download of an additional rule combination from a server computer.

22. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of parameters comprises a response to a query whether a user's age is greater than 18.

23. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of parameters comprises a response to a query whether a user has installed a digital camera on said computer system.

24. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the state of the user interface is a selected state.

25. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the state of the user interface is an activated state.